



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Isaiah Sermon Series

Supports Session 7: God Listens

Sermon Title: "Who Are You Going to Bet On?" (Isaiah 36–37:7)

Connection to Isaiah 37

Isaiah 36–39 is a different type of literature than the previous chapters. Chapters 36–39 are written in narrative form. All of the poetry, prophecy, and prose have been building up to this climactic moment. Hezekiah must pick a side. Chapter 37 reveals the choice that Hezekiah makes. Hezekiah chooses God. Chapters 36–37:1-7 set the stage for his climactic choice.

Introduction/Opening

Why do people who do not bet ask the question, “Who are you going to bet on?” This is a way of finding out who the person thinks will come out on top. Other ways of communicating the same concept include: “Put your money where your mouth is,” or “it’s time to put up or shut up.” This is where we find ourselves in the Book of Isaiah. The Assyrian threat is not going anywhere, but God is not going anywhere either. So Hezekiah is going to hear the words of two faithful ambassadors, and he must choose which one he is going to believe. While our situation in life may look radically different than Hezekiah’s, we are asked the same question every day of our lives. Who are we going to bet on?

Outline

1. The visible king’s word is delivered through a diplomat (v. 36).
 - a) The future is now (v. 1).
 - b) The parties involved (vv. 2-3)
 - c) The release of psychological warfare (vv. 4-10)
 - d) The initial response to the intimidation (v. 11)
 - e) The escalation (vv. 12-20)
 - i. The tone gets crazier.
 - ii. The threats get wilder.
 - f) The broken men give the words to the king (vv. 21-22).

2. The invisible King’s word is delivered through the prophet (37:1-7).
 - a) How does he respond?
 - b) Where does he go?
 - c) What does he do?
 - i. He prays.
 - ii. He seeks God’s messenger.
 - d) What does he hear? (vv. 6-7)
 - i. Don’t be afraid of him.
 - ii. I will deal with him.

Conclusion

The bullies and the enemies of God's people are very real. At this juncture we are not sure how it is all going to work out for Judah or Assyria, but we are left with God's promise that He will handle Assyria. Isaiah is about to let us know how God took care of Assyria, but we must not get ahead of ourselves. Hezekiah has to trust that God will handle them before He actually handles them. In our lives, we are asked to trust in God's power, purpose, and promise until the enemies are vanquished. God has pledged Himself to us by offering His Son. Jesus has conquered the enemies of sin, Satan, and death, and we must trust that His conquering ensures our victory over our enemies. We must not be intimidated by the chatter; we must trust the contents of the promised Word of God.

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